

Water Management Infrastructure

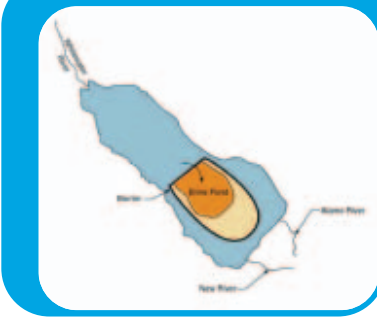
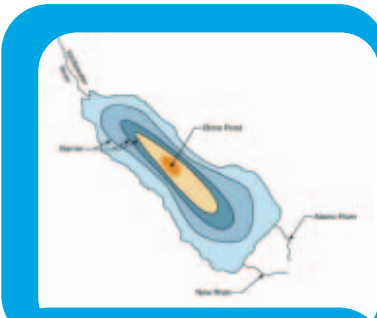
North Sea Alternative



South Sea Alternative



Multiple Concentric Rings



Combination

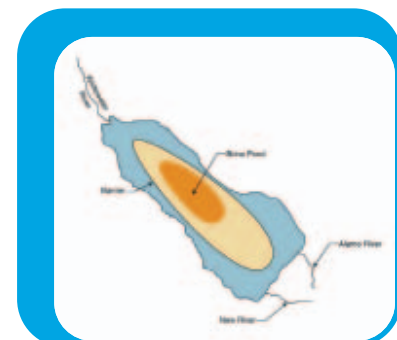
The restoration process is focused on the permanent protection of the fish and wildlife dependent upon the Salton Sea ecosystem. Different "Water Management Infrastructures" may accomplish this goal. The Salton Sea Advisory Committee is working with the state to develop potential "Water Management Infrastructure" alternatives.

The evaluation process of these alternatives is focused on their ability to meet the habitat, water quality, and air quality objectives under a range of different water flows into the Sea.

Direct comments to:

Department of Water Resources
Colorado River and Salton Sea Office
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

For more information, please visit DWR's homepage at www.salttonsea.water.ca.gov



Single Concentric Waterway

Waterway To Gulf



Evolving Sea

For more information, please visit DWR's homepage at www.salttonsea.water.ca.gov

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Salton Sea
ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROGRAM

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Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration

Road to a Restoration Plan

The Need for Salton Sea Restoration

In the 1950s and 60s, the Salton Sea was a popular destination for many southern Californians due to a warm climate with fishing and water recreational opportunities. Over time, this unique ecosystem began to experience environmental problems. Salinity levels increased and heavy loads of nutrients entered the Sea which have contributed to conditions that result in periodic fish kills. Unless actions are taken to address the Sea's increasing salinity and other water quality problems, the Sea will not be able to support the fish and wildlife resources that rely on it and recreational opportunities at the Sea will be reduced.

The QSA

The Colorado River is a vital source of much of southern California's water supply. It supplies water for agricultural and municipal water uses in the Salton Sea watershed which are a source of inflow for the Salton Sea.

Historically, California utilized surplus river water and water allocated to, but not used by, other states to meet its water demands. However, due to growth in other western states, California has been required to cut back to its basic allocation. Discussions throughout the water community in the mid-1990s about how to reduce California's use of Colorado River water set the stage for the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and the related issues in the Salton Sea region.

In 2003, an intensive mediation effort was undertaken by state officials and the water agencies that use Colorado River water, as well as the United State Department of the Interior. As a result of these negotiations, state legislation emerged to implement the QSA and provide for the restoration of the Salton Sea.

Environmental Restoration

Under the legislation, the state is charged with "restoration of the Salton Sea ecosystem and the permanent protection of the wildlife dependent on that ecosystem." The California Resources Agency is to prepare an ecosystem restoration plan, a programmatic Environmental Impact Report, as well as other documents. The reports are to be submitted to the California Legislature by the end of 2006.

Elements of a Restoration Plan

There are several major elements that will be included in the Salton Sea Ecosystem Restoration Plan.

Habitat Restoration focuses on maintaining diverse and sustainable populations of fish and wildlife, ensuring a mosaic of habitats in the Salton Sea watershed.

Water Quality Management focuses on reducing salinity levels, controlling nutrients, and selenium management.

Air Quality Management includes the elimination of air quality impacts from Restoration Plan actions, maintaining existing air monitoring stations, and performing further air quality data collection.

Water Management Infrastructure – In order to implement the other necessary elements of the Ecosystem Restoration Plan, water management infrastructure may need to be developed. These options may include different configurations of barriers to partition the Salton Sea, potential water conveyance structures (pipelines, canals), and water treatment facilities.

Restoration Planning Process

The state is vigorously working to meet the requirements of the implementing legislation and the California Environmental Quality Act and will select a preferred alternative only after completion of a **full and open public process**. This effort will build upon and utilize previously performed work – **it will not "re-invent the wheel."**

Together with all of the Salton Sea stakeholders, the state is working to permanently protect the Salton Sea's important wildlife resources, and ensure the successful implementation of the QSA legislation, while allowing for continued recreation and economic development opportunities.

Restoration Planning Process Timeline

- Define and evaluate alternatives throughout Summer/Fall 2005
- Draft EIR published in early 2006
- Final EIR published in late fall 2006
- Secretary for Resources submits plan to Legislature by December 31, 2006
- Decision by State Legislature